

Council on the Libraries

Annual Report 2008 – 2009

Meetings

The Council on the Libraries met seven times in the academic year. Meetings took place on November 6, 2008; December 4, 2008; January 8, 2009; February 5, 2009; March 6, 2009; April 2, 2009; and June 4, 2007.

Membership

(*Attended three or more meetings)

Faculty

Michael Dietrich, *Associate Professor of Biological Sciences (F08 only)*

Kirk Endicott, *Professor of Anthropology (off W09)*

Veronika Fuechtner, *Assistant Professor of German (W09 only)*

*Robert Graves, *John H. Krehbiel Sr. Professor for Emerging Technologies, Thayer Co-Director, Master of Engineering Management Program, Thayer Adjunct Professor, Tuck School of Business Professor Emeritus, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (RPI)*

William Hickey, *The John La Porte Given Professor and Professor of Pathology, DMS Senior Associate Dean of Academic Affairs, DMS*

*Gary Johnson, *Professor of Earth Sciences (off F08)*

*Hussein Kadhim, *Associate Professor of Asian and Middle Eastern Languages and Literatures*

Mary Munter, *Professor of Management Communication, Tuck*

*Walter Simons, *Associate Professor of History and Chair, Council on the Libraries*

Christopher Snyder, *Professor of Economics (W09 only)*

*Roxana Verona, *Associate Professor of French and Comparative Literature (off W09)*

*David Webb, *Professor of Mathematics*

Undergraduate Student Representatives

*Sean Currey '11

Jennifer Luong '10

Graduate Student Representative

Sara Walker

Casey Murray (alternate)

Ex Officio Members

*Jeffrey Horrell, *Dean of Libraries and Librarian of the College*

*Ellen Waite-Franzen, *Vice President of Information Technology*

*Barry Scherr, *Provost*

*Kent Yrchik-Shoemaker, *Assistant Dean of the College*

Invited Guests

*Elizabeth Kirk, *Associate Librarian for Information Resources*

*Cynthia Pawlek, *Deputy Librarian and Associate Librarian for User Services*

*David Seaman, *Associate Librarian for Information Management*

Staff to the Council

Julie Blain, *Assistant to the Dean of Libraries*

Activities

This report offers a brief overview of the Council's activities. For detailed minutes of the meetings, see < www.dartmouth.edu/~library/col/ >.

The Council's November meeting set the agenda for the year and agreed on meeting dates. The subjects addressed at the meetings included the following.

1. Budget

In several meetings, the Council examined and discussed the impact on the libraries of the 2010 budget reconciliation measures undertaken by the College and Medical School. In response to those measures, the Library adopted a plan to reduce its budget from unrestricted funds by 10.7%, starting on July 1, 2009. In staffing, four currently vacant positions and three actually filled positions (Communications and Web Manager; Technology Coordinator in Library Administration, Document Delivery Assistant in Access Services) are eliminated. In collections, access to certain databases will be reduced, without any cancellations, however, of serials and monographs; finally several items of the operational budget will see cuts, notably in travel, training, binding (50% reduction) and various amenities. Following similar cuts in the budget of the Medical School, the Biomedical Libraries will seek a budget reduction by about 9%, directed toward areas that do not threaten the essential information functions or will have the least effect on those functions. Overall, the Library intend to protect the integrity of the collections; access may temporarily be reduced but not content, and ways to reopen and rebuild in the future will be preserved. The Council found that the measures so far indeed appear to trim on the edges of the budget, but it expressed concern for the future.

2. Scholarly Communication

2.1 Open Access Publishing

As noted in last year's report, Harvard's Faculty of the Arts and Sciences mandated last year that all faculty publications be made available online. Stanford, MIT, Oregon State, Harvard Law School, and others have followed suit. Open Access policies like these present certain problems for small scientific societies which often derive much of their financial support from subscriptions to their journals; the current recession has further undermined their income. In order to address these problems, a number of institutions are developing a new system of publication that is not based on journal subscriptions but

on financial contributions by authors or--more accurately--by the home institutions of authors whose articles would be available individually in Open Access. This would constitute a revolutionary change in scholarly publishing, with considerable financial implications for several parties. Dartmouth will join several other research institutions (Cornell, MIT, UC-Berkeley, Harvard) in expressing support for open access methodologies. The Council continues to be briefed on these developments which evolve quite rapidly. For more, see the Library's webpages on scholarly communication: www.dartmouth.edu/~library/schcomm/. Dartmouth authors will find there also an "Author's Amendment" which they may wish to use when signing publishing contracts: < www.dartmouth.edu/~library/schcomm/docs/DC-pub-agree-amend.pdf >. Through this amendment, authors can reserves the right to use their work in classroom teaching, post it on a course webpage or publish the final version on an academic or research group website; in other words, the amendment does not give exclusive publishing rights to the publisher.

2.2 Digital Publishing at Dartmouth

In the fall of 2008, the Library issued a "Whitepaper" on digital publishing ("Dartmouth Digital Library Service: Refining Our Structures and Direction"), which reviews experience since the launch of the Digital Publishing Program (DPP) in 2001, and defines goals for future work. DPP started with the intention of publishing original scholarship at the College and digitizing selected existing materials from the College's collections. Because the College made these plans so early, the project was more centralized than was common at other institutions; it also benefited from good technical expertise and the ability to establish important links with external web sources. The decision to set up several e-journals (*Journal of e-Media Studies*, *Linguistic Discovery*, and *Encrucijada*, the journal of the Latino Intersections website) was a sound one, even though the college could not rely on a press which had experience in publishing journals. On the other hand, several problems have now come to light that need addressing. The Library does not currently have the resources to take on new journal publications and should seek

collaboration with a commercial publisher for any new venture along these lines, in part out of financial constraints but also because more editorial assistance is needed. The Library must concentrate its efforts on a small number of projects with a clear impact, like monographs or other well-defined publication projects supporting teaching; for an overview of the current projects, see the Annual Report for 2007-08.

During our January meeting, William Scott (Professor of Classics, emeritus) commented on his experience publishing his new monograph on Homeric similes through a collaboration between the University of New England Press and the Library. The press accepted the publication and has taken the usual editorial steps. The Library has prepared for mounting the publication and making it accessible via electronic search engines. One hundred print titles will be produced for review copies and for initial sales. Since the book is a sequel to an earlier publication, there was a concern that both works should be available. Scott's earlier publisher has agreed to let the Library mount the earlier companion volume, so that readers have access to both works. Final publication is expected in the Fall of 2009.

3. Library Resources

3.1 General

The LibQual survey about the Library (a national survey developed under the auspices of the Association of Research Libraries) conducted in the spring of 2008, had a response rate that was too low to be statistically reliable, but there were nevertheless some useful findings: undergraduates and others' perceptions were higher than in the 2004 survey; the faculty expressed concerns about strengthening the collections, while students prioritized study space and upgrades to the facilities.

3.2 Library System

The Next Generation Library Systems Task Force established in the winter of 2008 completed its activities in September 2008 with a report that defined and evaluated “behavioral standards” for consideration of future systems. It acknowledged as “realities and needs” the superabundance of resources, the principle that selective and convenient additions are better than sheer bulk, the importance of access, and the need of filtering mechanisms. It also reminded designers of on-going consultation of and guidance by users, which is where all strategy will need to start.

In the Winter of 2008-09, the Library initiated a test of Summon, a “unified discovery system” intended to improve combined searches in multiple databases through more relevant and more efficient ranking of results. The test is currently in its beta-phase (users can try out Summon by links on the Library catalog pages). First impressions are that Summon retrieves a great number of relevant, diverse materials; links are increasingly to the complete text of the source (in pdf). No decision has yet been made about adoption of Summon.

3.3 BorrowDirect

Libraries in the BorrowDirect network are continuing their discussion of coordinated collection development. One current proposal is to define topics within several disciplines (e.g. German, Korean, Environmental Studies, etc.) that will be the subject of more intense collecting by one institution than by others. The preliminary stage of data collecting was completed in the summer of 2009.

3.4 Individual Libraries

In our April 2009 meeting, Pat Fiskens, Head of Paddock Music Library, briefed the Council on a new addition to the Database of Recorded American Music (DRAM), i.e.

the complete recordings of John Appleton, a long-time member of the Music Department who donated his archives for the period 1959-2006 to Rauner. These materials, comprising more than 140 pieces (often preserved on reel-to-reel tapes), were digitized at the Jones Media Center and are now available at www.dramonline.org/composers/appleton-jon or, in part, through the library at www.dartmouth.edu/~library/digital/collections/ocn237122095/index.html.

Our June meeting was devoted to an overview of the activities of Dana Biomedical and Matthews-Fuller Libraries, guided by Bill Garrity, Head of the Biomedical libraries.

3.5 Off-Campus Storage

The final report prepared by the Storage Planning Working Group envisages a) Immediate action: creating space in the current location by de-accession of materials and selective transfer to electronic resources; b) in a next stage (2009-13), utilizing additional storage options, such as parts of the Record Management Facility; c) finally (2014-), investing in a new storage facility, for which several options are to be considered, including a collaborative project. Less than 1% of the journal titles will be de-accessed; they are archived in JSTOR. The emergence of third-party escrow services and multiple repository systems offer more guaranties of full, uninterrupted access. Faculty will be consulted to determine if there is value in preserving print copies.

Respectfully Submitted,

Walter Simons

Department of History

Chair of the Council 08-09